Message Text

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17-12

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 AID-20 CIAE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02

OMB-01 SCEM-02 ISO-00 DRC-01 /084 W

R 280720Z SEP 73 FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7088

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EFIN, JA, ID SUBJ: INDONESIAN LNG

REF: STATE 187536

SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO INDUSTRIAL BANK OF JAPAN SOURCE, SIGNATURE OF PERTAMINA-PACIFIC LIGHTING LNG CONTRACT CAME AS SOMEWHAT OF SHOCK TO JAPANESE, BUT JAPAN NOW BASING ALL ITS CALCULATIONS ON ASSUMPTION THIS CONTRACT WOULD BE APPROVED BY GOI. THIRTY-MAN JAPANESE DELEGATION, INCLUDING SEVERAL GOJ REPRESENTATIVES, WILL LEAVE SEPT 30 FOR 10 DAY VISIT TO JAKARTA TO DISCUSS LNG PROJECT. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF MET SEPT 27 WITH TADASHI HASEGAWA, CHIEF MANAGER OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DEPT OF INDUSTRIAL BANK OF JAPAN TO DISCUSS INDONESIAN LNG. (HASEGAWA WORKS CLOSELY WITH JAPANESE PROJECT COORDINATOR SOHEI NAKAYAMA, COUNCILLOR OF THE INDUSTRIAL BANK.) HASEGAWA BEGAN BY NOTING THAT SIGNATURE OF CONTRACT BETWEEN PERTAMINA AND PACIFIC LIGHTING HAD COME AS SOMEWHAT OF SHOCK TO JAPAN. JAPANESE INTERESTS, HASEGAWA SAID, REALIZE THAT PL CONTRACT SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY INDONESIAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, INCLUDING TRADE MINISTER RADIUS. HOWEVER, THEY ALSO REALIZE STRENGTH OF PERTAMINA PRESIDENT DIRECTOR SUTOWO'S RELATIONSHIP WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESIDENT SUHARTO, AND BELIEVE IT UNLIKELY THAT PL CONTRACT

WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANY MAJOR CHANGES IN COURSE OF GOI REVIEW.

- 2. HASEGAWA ASSURED EMBOFF THAT JAPAN NOW BASING ALL ITS CALCULATIONS WITH RESPECT IMPORTS OF INDONESIAN LNG ON ASSUMPTION THAT 550 MILLION CUBIC FT PER DAY (OR ROUGHLY 3.5 MILLION TONS PER YEAR) WOULD GO TO THE US. SINCE CONFIRMED GAS RESERVES ARE LIMITED, AT LEAST FOR PRESENT, TO 10-12 MILLION PER YEAR IN TERMS OF OUTPUT, JAPANESE WILL TAKE REMAINDER OF GAS OR BETWEEN 6.5 8.5 MILLION TONS PER YEAR. HASEGAWA, HOWEVER, EMPHASIZED JAPANESE BELIEF THAT FINANCING AND EQUIPMENT SALES WOULD BE IN PROPORTION TO GAS PURCHASES BY TWO COUNTRIES, E.E. JAPANESE WOULD EXPORT (AND FINANCE) ABOUT TWICE AS MUCH OF NECESSARY EQUIPMENT FOR PROJECT AS WOULD US.
- 3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION RE JAPANESE SURVEY TEAM EXPECTED TO LEAVE FOR JAKARTA SHORTLY, HASEGAWA SAID 30-MAN JAPANESE MISSION WOULD LEAVE FOR JAKARTA ON SEPT 30 TO DISCUSS PROJECT WITH INDONESIANS. PRIVATE SIDE OF GROUP WILL BE HEADED BY MANAGING DIRECTOR OF KANSAI ELECTRIC CO. (ITCH) AND PUBLIC SIDE BY MITI PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT DIV. DIRECTOR (TOYOSHIMA). REPRESENTATIVES OF SEVEN POTENTIAL GAS CONSUMERS, JAPAN EXIMBANK, OVERSEAS ECONOMIC COOPERATION FUND (OECF), AND JAPAN PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT CORP (JPDC) WILL ALSO BE INCLUDED. HASEGAWA WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE AS GROUP "MODERATOR."
- 4. HASEGAWA ADDED THAT NO AGENDA HAD BEEN SET FOR TEN DAY VISIT. JAPANESE WOULD DISCUSS WHATEVER INDONESIANS DESIRED. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, NATURAL GAS, LPG, CARGO SHIPS, VISITS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 28 SEP 1973 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TOKYO12556

Document Number: 1973TOKYO12556 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a

Executive Order: GS INGERSOLL

Errors: N/A Film Number: n/a From: TOKYO

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973092/aaaaaayi.tel Line Count: 93

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE

Office: ACTION COME Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a

Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: STATE 187536

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 16 NOV 2001

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Nov-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <18-Dec-2001 by golinofr>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: INDONESIAN LNG TAGS: ENRG, EFIN, JA, ID

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005